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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

MELBOURNE H. FORD

APRIL 9, 1892–FEB. 4, 1893.

PRESENTED BY
JUDGE and MRS. ISAAC R. SMITH,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

MELBOURNE H. FORD,

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MICHIGAN,

DELIVERED IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE,

FIFTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1893.

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Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That there be printed of the eulogies delivered in Congress upon the Hon. MELBOURNE H. FORD, late a Representative from the State of Michigan, eight thousand copies, of which two thousand copies shall be delivered to the Representatives and Senators of that State, and of the remaining number, two thousand copies shall be for the use of the Senate and four thousand copies for the use of the House. And of the quota of the House of Representatives, the Public Printer shall set aside fifty copies which he shall have bound in full morocco with gilt edges, the same to be delivered when complete to the family of the deceased. And the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby directed to have engraved and printed, at the earliest day possible, a portrait of the above to accompany said eulogies.

Agreed to in the House of Representatives February 14, 1893.

Agreed to in the Senate February 14, 1893.

Gift from
Judge and Mrs. Isaac R. Ford
Nov. 17, 1931

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEATH.

DECEMBER 19, 1891.

Mr. CHIPMAN, of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the request of the delegation from the State of Michigan, the duty devolves upon me to announce to this House the death, on the 21st day of April last, of Hon. MELBOURNE H. FORD, a member of Congress from the State of Michigan. He died very suddenly, in the fresh maturity of his very remarkable powers; and in his death the brilliant future, of which his past career gave promise, has been cut off. His obsequies were attended by a multitude of citizens of the thriving and beautiful city in which he resided, and by representative men not only from the State of Michigan but from other States of the Union.

This is not a proper occasion to enter upon a eulogy of Mr. FORD'S career. He served in the Legislature of his State. He served on this floor, where he was known, respected, and beloved by many gentlemen who are members of the present Congress. I will content myself at present with simply and reverently announcing to the House the sad fact of his death, and on another occasion will ask that opportunity be given to members of this body who admired and loved him to pay tribute to his memory. I ask the adoption of the resolution which I send to the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Whereas the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. MELBOURNE H. FORD, late a Representative from the State of Michigan: Therefore,

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to his memory the House do now adjourn.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

The resolutions were adopted; and, in accordance therewith, the House (at 12:37 p. m.) adjourned until Wednesday next.

APRIL 9, 1892.

Mr. BELKNAP. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the regular order.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will read the special order for this day.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That Saturday, April 9, beginning at 2 o'clock p. m., be set apart for paying tribute to the memory of Hon. MELBOURNE H. FORD, late a member of the House of Representatives from the Fifth district of Michigan.

Mr. BELKNAP. Mr. Speaker, I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The resolutions were read, as follows:

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for a tribute to the memory of the Hon. MELBOURNE H. FORD, late a Representative from the State of Michigan.

Resolved, That, as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his eminent abilities as a public servant, the House at the conclusion of these memorial proceedings shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Address of Mr. O'Donnell of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, the frequent assignment of days in which the course of business is suspended in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the worth of departed members of the Fifty-second Congress who have gone to the silent continents of eternity furnish impressive lessons of the mutability of human affairs, the uncertainty of life, and the certainty of death. Since my service in this House many have been summoned from the activities of being to the stillness of the grave. What a roll of names that can make answer only from the silent depths of memory! In the present Congress what a membership have gone to the solemn shades!

Since Michigan became a State five of its members in this House and two Senators have died in office. The latter were Kinsley S. Bingham, one of our early statesmen, who died in 1861, and Zachariah Chandler, the great war Senator, unexpectedly taken from earth in 1879. Of the members of the House whose terms were closed by death were Edward Bradley, died in 1847, before taking his seat; Wilder D. Foster, who passed away in 1872; Alpheus S. Williams, summoned hence in 1878; Seth C. Moffatt, suddenly called in 1887; and the fifth and last of the list of Michigan's representatives released from duty by death was Melbourne H. Ford, whose memory we honor to-day, and who was numbered with the dead less than a year ago, April 20, 1891.

Mr. Ford was born in Saline, Mich., June 30, 1849. My first acquaintance with him began in my own city, where he was employed as a clerk. I remember that the duties of the clerkship were performed faithfully and acceptably by the youth. When he had given up the humble position he departed, and

I did not meet him again until the winter of 1887 in this Hall, when he came to enter upon the duties of a Representative in the Fiftieth Congress.

Mr. FORD commenced his education at the Agricultural College at Lansing, and while there received the appointment of naval cadet at Annapolis. He pursued the studies at that historic school for a few months. The young man desired to serve his country. He had not attained the years on entering the Academy to be enrolled among the country's defenders, but after a time he joined the naval forces, and saw a little service before the ordeal of war was fully ended. He was permitted to be a participant in the great struggle that made ambition virtue and repaid the nation in following the profession for which it had partially educated him.

When peace was restored he quitted the Navy and turned his talents to the conquests of peace, studied law, and was admitted. He never practiced that profession, but served many courts in another capacity than that of advocate or counsel. He ranked among the most proficient of stenographers and enjoyed the work. He held but two elective positions, both legislative. In 1884 he was chosen a member of the lower house of the Michigan Legislature, being accredited to that branch by the great manufacturing city of the State. He soon gave evidence of decided ability, his service being so acceptable that he was rewarded in 1886 by an election to this House.

During the term here he exhibited application and industry, accomplishing much for his constituency and district. He sought by law to stay the tide of immigration of the unworthy to our shores; to elevate American citizenship, and debar dangerous elements coming here; to close the door to those not fitted for our institutions. His design was misunderstood. He had reared a structure to protect his country. This was leveled by those whom it was intended to assist, and in the ruins

was the political hope of the promoter of the legislation. He learned the instability of public opinion; that it is ever changing. He accepted the verdict with composure.

In the Legislature of Michigan the members of the political party with which he was identified paid him the compliment of making him their candidate for United States Senator.

He retired from this House at the end of his term, disappointed at the lack of recognition on the part of the constituency whom he had desired to benefit. The interregnum between elections passed, and in 1890 he was again nominated for Congress, to share in the astounding victories of his party in that year of surprising results. Public opinion that two years before had cast him down now triumphantly designated him again as a Representative in Congress. He stood once more in the sunshine of success. The lesson of public life is difficult to con by those whose philosophy is the welfare of others. The issue of that contest restored Mr. FORD to his place among the leaders of his party in the Peninsular State and he planned to serve his people more efficiently than before.

In the brief period of forty-seven days after the beginning of his tenure as a member of the Fifty-second Congress he was suddenly summoned from earth by death, the grim messenger striking the fatal blow without warning. On Sunday night, April 19, 1891, he sought repose, and in that strange and solemn interval of time, the twilight of the morning, in the violet dawn, he was stricken with the malady which in a few hours removed him from the scenes of earth. He never recovered consciousness from the attack. He saw not the sorrowing wife and children and grieving friends about that couch of death, but quietly stepped from the harassing cares of the present into the realm of eternal rest and peace.

The 20th of last April was a day of sadness at Grand Rapids, his home. The wave of sorrow was felt all over Michi-

gan. At the funeral the affection of the people and their mourning for his demise were manifested in many ways. The Legislature of the State attended in a body, business was suspended, and as the remains lay in state at the City Hall, amid the flowers of awakening spring, thousands with moist eyes looked upon the placid countenance of the dead.

The bereavement was expressed so general that it seemed those sealed ears might hear. Amid the somber trappings of woe, the quiet procession of bereaved friends and acquaintances, as I looked it seemed to me there was that strange reflection of a light that never was on land or sea touching and brightening the still features into a look of hope and peaceful joy.

A great city's heart throbbed with grief that he was taken. The inanimate form was conveyed from its home on earth to its final home, followed by a great concourse, and in the silent city, on that April day, when nature was awakening in the vividness of renewed life, when the long day of the year had dawned upon spring, all that was mortal was tenderly laid to rest by loving, fraternal hands; the grave closed over this young life. At the obsequies the workingmen of the city requested that the factories be silent that day in order that they might pay their tribute to the memory of one they esteemed so well in life. I believe our dead friend would have asked no sweeter rosemary for remembrance than this act of the industrial forces at his home. Could he have looked down from the calm heights of eternity he would have realized that useful lives here are not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, as I saw those marks of respect to his memory in that great mart of trade, while gazing upon the coffined lineaments of our friend and associate, there came to me the tender thought once spoken of another:

Thou camest into the world weeping, while all around thee were smiling, and thou leavest the world smiling, while all about thee are in tears.

Mr. FORD lived not quite forty-two years. In this limited period he accomplished much. In the swift pilgrimage "from the rosy dawn of birth to death's sad night" he wrought for others more than for himself. I knew him well during his service here, and soon discovered his strong convictions on public questions, and his consistent advocacy thereof. This spirit distinguished him to the end of his too brief life. His tastes were social as well as literary, and those who knew him here were inspired with confidence and friendship. His work in this Capital won success, gained by ability, fidelity, and industry.

Reflecting over the vanished life now passed on, let us remember, as was said by Lucretius centuries agone:

> Life is given to no one for a lasting possession; to all for use.

Mr. Speaker, I have sketched the life and public service of our departed associate, how he labored for his people and the nation. His strong character, enlarged views, application, and native ability displayed while a member here brought him recognition and prominence in the country. Those who noted that career as it developed in this Hall lament that he was too early summoned to the other world by death.

In paying this tribute to my dead friend and colleague my mind recalls a solemn scene in this Chamber on February 29, 1888, when he spoke words of sorrowing regret over the death of another departed member from Michigan, Mr. Moffatt, who, like the subject of our service to-day, had crossed the dark river and entered the portals of eternity. He, too, had been almost as suddenly summoned from life. We looked upon him one day well and strong, and in a few hours we saw on his face the wondrous seal of everlasting peace. In Mr. FORD'S eulogy of our dead colleague he uttered that gem imbedded in the language of every people, "say naught of the dead un-

less good." In that fitting address he foreshadowed his belief in the future life in these words:

> That there is a hereafter every man, it seems to me, must believe. I can not conceive how anyone with human instincts can think otherwise. If there exists a person who honestly believes that when his eyes are closed in death nothing remains, then, I say, such a person is to be pitied. Can it be that at the conclusion of man's existence on this planet for a comparatively infinitesimal period of time—can it be, I say, that when dust is rendered into dust, all is ended? No.
>
> No word comes back. We know not what awaits us. Still, I have something here in my innermost soul which tells me that this life is not the end; that beyond all this we have a wider, a higher, a nobler destiny. There lies in the human breast a something which says, "This is not all." What an encouraging hope, what a divine thing it is for this world, this belief in a future existence.

To repeat the words of our departed friend, spoken here four years since, for him we trust in that "encouraging hope" he gave of his "belief in a future existence" and are gladdened by the conviction that with him it is well. In the celestial economy no ray of light is left to wander aimlessly. His good deeds are treasured in the archives of eternity. We rejoice that back of death's semblance is the potency of a splendid new birth.

I have read that "man's best monument must be found in human hearts that swell at mention of his name, but speak not in a public place." How true is this. Can we receive a finer garland than is woven from the unremembered acts of kindness? Human sympathy is like the summer rain "which makes the fields it hastens to bright and green."

This young life is closed. We pause to-day to speak of the work he undertook, the tasks he accomplished, of his best endeavor. As the sketch is completed we invoke a benediction from the world beyond, turning to those tender words of Newman, which are held hopeful for the dead and helpful and worthy for the living:

Lead, kindly Light.

We stand dumb in deciphering the mystery of death—why this life was so soon and so suddenly abridged. It is not given to us to explain why this career, so well endowed by nature and so full of promise, should be thus early terminated. This problem for centuries has not been solved.

Our friend and colleague is no more. For those who remain the star of the future which shines in the horizon is Hope; there is never more night than day.

And now we leave him in his dreamless sleep. Farewell!

Sleep 'till the shadows take
Their endless flight;
Until the morning break—
Good night! good night!

Address of Mr. Youmans, of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I can not permit this opportunity to pass without paying my tribute to the memory of Melbourne H. Ford.

In reviewing the life of Mr. Ford, length of years—the allotted measure of existence—is not a part. Neither is his that fame which comes from long service, faithful ability, ripened experience, political sagacity—that tardy acknowledgment of great qualities. A sudden flash across the political horizon, then as suddenly eclipsed. Serving only in the Fiftieth Congress, yet in that brief time he made his name a household word. Mr. Ford's sympathies were not so much with the prosperous as with his fellow-citizens in the more humble walks of life. His whole aim was to ennoble and elevate citizenship, to place it on that high plane which would insure permanency and safety to our institutions.

In the swarming millions flocking to our shores he saw danger unless the baser elements could be excluded. He sought

a remedy, and was made chairman of a select committee "to inquire into the alleged violations of the laws prohibiting the importation of contract labor, paupers, convicts, and other classes." I need not say how well that work was done. The startling evidence disclosed was commented on by the press throughout the land. Almost with one voice a correction of the evil was demanded.

Elected to the Fifty-second Congress, he hoped to complete the work already so far advanced. But suddenly he dropped the burden of life; that work was left for others to complete, and when completed it will be a monument to him outlasting "storied urn or animated bust."

In Michigan Mr. FORD always possessed the confidence and regard of his party, and in 1889 they honored his courage and ability by making him their candidate for United States Senator. But few men have climbed higher in so short a time. The characteristic of Mr. FORD'S public career was perseverance, an inflexible pursuit of well-considered policy. In the more intimate relations of life he was cheerful, uniformly kind, and generous. His friends were not only the prosperous, but there were many in the more humble condition of life who looked on him not only as their champion but their friend.

His sun had not reached the meridian; in his early manhood, at his home in Grand Rapids, in the forty-second year of his age, on April 20, 1891, "he was, and then was not."

Mr. Speaker, I have been impressed with that passage in Forster's Life of Goldsmith describing his funeral:

> There were gathered in his rooms the most distinguished men of the age; but on the stairway leading to his rooms in Lamb's Court there was weeping and mourning by a crowd of the poor and unfortunate who had been recipients of his bounty and had lost their only friend.

So, too, at the funeral of Mr. FORD, distinguished men from all parts of the great and prosperous State of Michigan were

assembled; but there, too, was many an humble friend mourning him.

It was so sudden. They had looked forward to a long and brilliant career; surprised and sorrowing that so early in life the "pale horseman" had crossed his path and beckoned him to enter the Valley of the Shadow, the opening of which is another morn than ours.

Address of Mr. McMillin, of Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, through seven terms it has been my lot to watch the comings and goings, the daily walk, the success or failure, of those whom our sixty millions of people send to represent them in this Hall, and I can truly say that in all that time I have seen no young man come here who seemed more readily to comprehend the high responsibilities devolved upon him, or who more intelligently and more assiduously discharged those duties than did the noble Representative whom we mourn to-day. He came at that time of life when all is buoyancy, all hope, all anticipation.

As has just been stated by his distinguished colleague [Mr. Youmans], he realized the dangers that threatened his country, and notwithstanding the trepidation in which others had shrunk from those dangers before him, and in which others might be inclined to shrink from them around him, he came boldly to the front and determined to try if it were possible to enforce the laws of American citizenship so as to keep out that incursion of criminal and other classes against whom the laws had already set up barriers, but barriers which were being constantly overridden. His action in that regard is well known to the country.

I remember that again, when the tariff bill was up for con-

sideration, he proposed to place upon the free list an important article of manufacture—German plate glass. He came here from the heart of a great manufacturing community. The beautiful city in which he lived had been originated and sustained and made prosperous by manufactures. I remember it was whispered to him that probably the course he was taking was not the best to commend him to those who believed in a system of tariff laws supposed to be inimical to his proposition.

In a conversation that I had with him he said: "I care not what the effect on me may be; I know that it is right and that greater prosperity will come by reasons of such an enactment." His arguments were so cogent that they convinced his associates and his proposition was made a part of the bill of that year, and, although that bill did not become a law, if he were here to-day he would ascertain that within less than six weeks there have been petitioners to the number of 40,000 asking that this Congress do what he attempted to do.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who knew him well and knew him but to love him have lost much. His State has lost more, because to her he was not simply an associate, a friend, but one of her pillars and stays. But his country—the extent of which he fully comprehended, the importance of whose free institutions had a dwelling place in his heart and an intelligent dwelling place in his head—that great country which he served with such distinction here, has been also a sufferer in this common calamity.

I know not how his last hours were spent. I know nothing of those expressions concerning the future that have been commented upon by his colleague who first spoke [Mr. O'Donnell]. But if a man is to be judged, as we are given to hope he will be judged, by every good deed done in the body—and of this I have no doubt—his lot will be a happy one in the hereafter. A passage that has struck me as very forcible and

beautiful is that between Ion and Clemanthe, where she asked him, when devoted to death, trembling before its uncertainties and moved by the sorrow of the coming separation, whether they would ever meet again. You remember that in substance he replied:

> I have asked that dreadful question of the stars that are eternal, of the rivers that everlastingly flow, but they were all, all silent. But now, as I gaze into thy beautiful eyes and behold the depths of thy pure soul, I know there is that there which can not wholly perish. We shall meet again.

So, those who knew the honorable life of our departed friend, his intelligence, his soulful nature (if I may use that expression), his comprehension of every obligation that rested upon him, his high endowments in all those thousand elements that go to make man the greatest of created beings, must hope and feel that there was that there which can not wholly perish, and that we shall meet again.

Address of Mr. Hayes, of Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to attempt to pronounce any eulogy in the ordinary sense of that term upon Mr. Ford, and even the perhaps necessary details upon these occasions may well be left to his State colleagues; but from the standpoint of personal friendship, and in view of the high esteem and regard in which I held him and do hold his memory, I can not let the occasion pass without expressing my never-ceasing sorrow at his untimely death and paying a tribute to his memory.

We never met until we came together in the Fiftieth Congress, but, owing to the facts that we were born and reared in the same locality, were connected by many associations in Michigan's history, and had a host of mutual friends and acquaintances, we soon came together and became the closest of

friends. After such friendship for over four years, I can well say of him that he was generous to a fault, noble in every quality and instinct, honorable always, and one of that rare class of men whose friendship never faltered.

From a public standpoint he had not only brains, but the courage of his convictions, indomitable will, ceaseless energy, untiring industry, and with a suavity of manner and force and eloquence in speech that made him carry his points. This combination of good qualities made his future a bright one for himself and full of promise to his people.

In his death his country, his State, his party, and his constituency suffered an irreparable loss.

ADDRESS OF MR. CHIPMAN, OF MICHIGAN.

Mr. Speaker, a year ago at this time the news was flashed throughout the State of Michigan that the Hon. MELBOURNE H. FORD was dead. It was unexpected, and in that great Commonwealth it produced a painful shock; and soon at his home, on the banks of the beautiful Grand River, the people of the State gathered together from all sections, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, men in official positions and men from the humblest walks of life, and there, amid the wailing of funeral marches, the tears of sorrow, and the flowers of affection, they buried him. They left him in the kindly arms of Nature—to the sunlight and the breezes, to mother Earth herself.

What manner of man was he who was consigned to the tomb on that day? He was alert; he was decisive; he was a man of correct thought and of correct methods in public affairs. He was a man of firm convictions; and it must be said to his credit, as it is to the credit of every man of whom it is true,

that he did not stop to determine whether those convictions were popular, but only as to whether they were right. And so it happened that in his younger life when he became a member of the house of representatives of the Michigan Legislature he distinguished himself by an effort to restore capital punishment in that State.

That effort I did not approve of; but as to the learning, the ability, and the zeal with which he pursued it, there can be no doubt. It attracted a great deal of attention to him, for the reason that in that great Commonwealth there is practically but one opinion on the subject, and it is that the taking of a life for a life is still murder. So that he bravely opposed himself to the prevailing sentiment of the people and espoused a cause which he knew to be unpopular. This is true heroism in a public man ambitious of public preferment.

Long before he came to this House he was a consistent tariff reformer. Living in a manufacturing district, and in a manufacturing State, above all in a wool-producing State, he had the courage of his convictions, and never for an instant hesitated to pursue the path of tariff reduction to which his judgment impelled him. At that time, Mr. Speaker, his position on that question, as it had been upon other questions, was not a popular one; but he clung to it bravely and steadfastly until he became a member of this House, when, as you know, and as we all know, he still upheld the principle for which he was contending.

During his membership of this House he became interested, as has been said here already, in the question of immigration. The evils growing out of the coming of foreigners to our shores struck him, as they have struck others, as being of a most serious nature, and while I do not believe that he had any prejudice against any man or any nationality, or any race who came among us, still he felt, and he felt rightly, that this great coun-

try should not be made the asylum for the halt, the lame, the blind, the vicious, and the criminal; in a word, of the classes which other nations desire to get rid of.

I am sure he felt that the honest, the healthy immigrant was a welcome guest among us, and his arms were spread out to embrace every such man in the folds of American citizenship. But he had none of the mawkish sentimentality—an instance of which has recently occurred in this House—which induced him to believe that there is any tie of brotherhood, that there is any claim of philanthropy, which demands of the hard-working people of this country that they shall share with everybody who chooses to come to us their means of subsistence, and in this way diminish the wages of their own labor and the comfort of their own homes.

There is a wrong idea abroad on this subject. We are told that we recently violated a treaty with China. Mr. FORD felt, as I feel, that there is no power, that there can be no power, whether it is called the treaty-making power or other power, which will permit foreigners in immense numbers to come into this country as mere denizens, as temporary sojourners among us, and pluck from our laboring people the appropriate rewards of their labor.

The idea is monstrous. No treaty ever meant that. No treaty ever could mean that. And while it is perfectly proper that the old law maxim recognized by the common-law writers should prevail, and be respected and enforced if necessary by treaties, there is no law, there can be no law, there must be no law by which we share our crust with any and every person, and any and every nation, without regard to their intelligence, their morals, and effect of their presence upon the general tone of manhood in this country.

He was unfortunate on that occasion, unfortunate perhaps in having entered upon the investigation carried on by the com-

mittee which took his name, because it led to misconstruction and subjected him to criticism which his motives did not justify. He was unfortunate, too, in that the measure which he brought into the House as the result of the investigation was not acceptable to the House; but in the main, in his noble desire to protect the workingmen from improper and ruinous competition, he was right, and sooner or later he will receive the just meed of fame which belongs to being right upon a subject of so great importance.

It is among the mysteries, Mr. Speaker, why a man should live to the age of promise and be taken from us when he was taken. It is inscrutable, and we wonder what has become of the knowledge he has garnered, of the subtle machinery of his brain, of all the forces which made him what he was, and it is only with the certainty that in nature there is no cause without an effect, that there is no mistake and no accident in anything which nature orders, that we may find the solution, if we can find a solution, of that enigma. We may ponder on what might have been. We may wonder what would have been the setting of this sun which rose with so great brightness if it had run its course to the twilight hour.

But after all this is mere vague speculation. We can know nothing, we can only hope. And yet, Mr. Speaker, in this season of bud, of sunlight, of bloom and of balm, of resurrected nature, we are taught that death is but the portal of another chamber of life. There must be a hereafter. Careers of such promise, cut so short, would be a mistake in the plan of nature if there is not. This knowledge garnered, these abilities so subtly fashioned, must have an expansion and a field somewhere in the illimitable future.

And so it is not given to us to know whether death is the enemy of man, or whether it is a ministering angel, bearing him to vaster opportunity and to greater usefulness. But I

humbly hope, Mr. Speaker, that that grave by the side of the beautiful river is not the prison house of our friend; that he has burst the earthly cerements of that tomb, and that in that other state where eternal opportunity must be given all men the virtues which characterized him here have brighter, greater, happier play, and that all that was earthly and all that was wrong in his character here dropped from him "like a worn-out fetter which his soul has broke and thrown away." Happy will be the man who can shed the dross of passion and earthly weakness and dwell in the realms of hope beyond the grave, habited in manly virtue and unclouded intelligence.

ADDRESS OF MR. WHITING, OF MICHIGAN.

Mr. Speaker, words can but feebly convey to the members of this House the real sorrow and appreciation of loss which the sudden death of Mr. FORD brought, not alone to the people of Grand Rapids and his district, but to the people of the State at large.

I believe that I speak within bounds when I say that a general sentiment prevailed throughout the State that he was the most promising young man in Michigan, and that a bright future full of usefulness and honor was before him. These facts, Mr. Speaker, intensify the sadness of his untimely death and remind us of the importance of the present hour.

My acquaintance with him was confined mostly to my associations with him as his colleague in the Fiftieth Congress. We often consulted each other upon public matters, and I can now clearly recall the honest earnestness of his manner when giving expression to his views, and his solicitude that a wise regard for all should govern his action. I recall his buoyancy of spirit, his fondness for public life, his ease and adaptability

to work assigned to him, and his active participation in all that transpired upon this floor.

I recall the tribute of confidence and love so recently and so generously bestowed upon him by the people of his district, and the pleasure that was in store for him and his cheerful, loving wife, in again renewing the many cordial and happy friendships of the two short years before, and so to-day am doubly saddened in contemplating the change. His mortal career ended, his life work done, and his friends sorrowing; but with it comes the reflection and consciousness that an All-wise God, not man, judges the frailties and the virtues of mortals, and that His Son has said:

> Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.

To his bereaved family we can give the assurance that we loved him, and appreciated his worth; and we can offer the consolation that his love and fidelity to his fellow-men, exemplified in all his public acts, will stand as a legacy greater than riches and more valuable than length of days.

Address of Mr. Weadock, of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, Napoleon said: "All of us are needed a little; none of us are needed much." I might paraphrase this and say that each of us is needed but little in the great arena of the world, but there is a circle in which each one is needed very much indeed. And in the wider assemblage of friends who mourn the departure of our deceased colleague there is a small family circle that can never be the same again. There is a widow, and there are orphans, who will miss as long as they stay on earth the kind and affectionate love and compan

ionship of the husband and father, and no trophy of flowers, no studied eulogy, and no honor that may be paid to our departed brother can ever atone for the loss which they have sustained.

Now, it is said of so many that they were born and they died. Unless more can be said of a man than that he was born and died, it were better that nothing should be said; but such is not the case of our departed colleague; and while it may be proper to note the principal facts of his life, we do it more for the purpose of calling attention to his life work than for the mere purposes of biographical data.

Mr. FORD was born in Saline, a small village in the county of Washtenaw, near the city of Ann Arbor, the seat of the great University of Michigan. At 10 years of age he removed with his family to Lansing, the capital of the State, then a struggling village in the wilderness, now the bright and thrifty capital of a great and prosperous State. He was educated at the Agricultural College of that State, a few miles distant from the city of Lansing, and one of the proud monuments to the care which Michigan gives to the diversified interests of her people. Born too late to take a part in the rebellion, he enlisted near the close of the war in the United States Navy, and served for a brief period.

He was attached to the European squadron, which gave him the advantages of travel and that knowledge of men which is only gained by contact with them, and that love for American institutions which can best be strengthened by travel and observation among the people of other lands. As the years grew on he studied law with the firm of Longyear & Seager, in the city of Lansing; but he did not then undertake the practice of that profession. Later on he began the practice of the law, being associated with a leading firm in his home at Grand Rapids.

How well he studied and how closely and analytically he mastered the great principles of law is shown by the fact that while yet a student he prepared a work entitled "Ford's Legal Analysis," which may be found in the Library, and which shows a comprehensive and very clear understanding of the great principles which underlie the system of jurisprudence. He then turned his attention to the study of stenography, and became one of the most expert in the State. He was stenographer of some of the principal courts of Michigan; and that is a very important calling, one requiring skill, honesty, and integrity in a marked degree.

In 1884 he was elected by the Democracy to represent the city of Grand Rapids, which then constituted the first district of Kent County, in the State Legislature. He was appointed upon the committees on private corporations and on the university, two very important committees. He was faithful in his attendance upon the sittings of the Legislature, and especially watchful of local interests. A member of the larger house, the first occasion when I saw him was in that body. He then introduced a bill for the restoration of capital punishment in Michigan, which had been abolished many years, except for the crime of treason, for which offense it still exists on the statute book of that State.

That bill was introduced a few days after the beginning of the session of the Legislature, prescribing the punishment of death for murder in the first degree and one other heinous offense which, under our statutes, may be punished the same as murder. As one gentleman has well said, public opinion was believed to be against capital punishment, but that may be a misfortune, because I think the offenses named in the Ford bill can only be adequately punished, so far as they can humanely be punished, by death. The house of representatives passed the bill by a vote of 59 to 29, and with the senti-

ment of the State divided, perhaps more than one-half against capital punishment, the house voted for it.

This certainly was a signal triumph for a young member, serving his first term in the Legislature. The bill failed in the senate of the State, and did not become a law. He turned his attention also to the legislation for caring for juvenile offenders, a field which invites the serious thought of every statesman, who feels that the laws relating to young criminals, and their detention and punishment in our jails and prisons, as managed at the present time, make them schools for crime rather than places for the punishment and reform of offenders.

The municipal courts of his own city also received his care and attention, and he succeeded in passing a bill which very largely added to their usefulness. Another law which he championed was one to prevent frivolous appeals to the supreme court when the amount involved was less than $100. Throughout the State of Michigan there are a number of abstract officers, who charged large rates for the abstracts which they furnished concerning titles to land. He recognized that these abstracts of titles should belong to the public, should be provided at public expense and furnished at cost to the people. To that measure his earnest attention was given: it was another move in the direction of relief for the people which they had a right to expect and which it would have been a pleasure to him to achieve. That is another thing that among the many acts of his life endeared him to everyone who knew him.

In this House I shall say but little with reference to his career. It is known to many who are still here. Many gentlemen who served with him upon his most important committee—the Ford Committee on Immigration—have already gone to their reward. A few days ago we listened to eulogies on one of them, Francis B. Spinola. A bright young man from Nebraska, the late Representative Laird, a Michigan boy, who had gone

to the West and was returned here to represent his people, was one of his dear friends. Another bright and able gentleman, the very pink of courtesy in this House, Gen. William H. F. Lee, was also one of his near neighbors on the floor of the House. The able leader of this House, Mr. McMillin, has expressed himself so well in respect to the ability of Mr. FORD as a member of Congress that it would not become me to say anything further in that connection.

In the campaign of 1888, when Mr. FORD was a candidate for reëlection, he met perhaps the most terrific opposition that ever was arrayed against any candidate for Congress. The Mills bill had operated with particular severity against Michigan, and in the campaign of that year the personal popularity of Mr. FORD and his personal following were not sufficient to stem the tide, and he was defeated, but in the succeeding campaign the same friends and the same following still stood by him, undismayed by the defeat, and he was elected a member of this body.

In 1887 he was the candidate of his party for United States Senator against Hon. James McMillan, receiving every vote of his party, an honor which he greatly prized. His last political service was to act as secretary of the State convention of his party.

Death came to him suddenly. He had spent the evening in communion with his family, and had retired to rest in his usual health; but before the next morning's sun arose, his lips were sealed forever. Here is one of the fatalities almost connected with the life of public men. They live at such a high tension, their energy seems taxed to the uttermost, so that when the death blow does come, it comes very suddenly. It came so to Adams, to Hendricks, to Chandler, to Windom, to Carpenter, to Beck, and many other gentlemen whom I might name.

Cicero said:

> Some men make a womanish complaint that it is a great misfortune to die before our time. I would ask what time? Is it that of nature? But she indeed has lent us life as we do a sum of money, only no certain day is fixed for payment. What reason then to complain if she demands it at pleasure since it was on this condition that you received it.

It may be well for us to remember it, for it may come to us just as suddenly as it came to him; and we should be able to say with Hamlet, before the duel with Laertes:

> If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come; the readiness is all.

And so let us say of him as he said of another, Hon. Seth C. Moffatt, a former member of this House from the State of Michigan: His memory will not die. The friends who loved him in life will revere his memory in death; the acts of his life will be judged with clearer judgment than they could possibly have been in life.

Let me say, in conclusion, as was said by him in his conclusion of his eulogy of Mr. Moffatt:

* * * * * * *

> Our friend will not be forgotten. His friends will ever keep his memory fresh in their hearts. And when the glorious summer comes and the grass grows green and beautiful and the Michigan roses blossom on his grave, although his lips will be hushed in death, yet the tender blades and the perfume of the flowers will speak of him, and to those who knew him best will seem to say, "Beneath here sleeps one who was kind and noble and true."

We can say this with all sincerity and truth of our departed colleague. It is a pleasing thing to know that he believed in the future. There is a remedy for all the disappointments of this life in the belief in immortality, and that the higher life of man is extended beyond this earth. And we can say of him who has solved the great mystery of life that we join with

him in his belief in immortality, and we hope that he has gone to a better land, to that abode—

> Where love hath put off in the land of its birth
> The stain it had gathered in this;
> And hope, the sweet singer, that gladdened the earth
> Lies asleep in the bosom of bliss.

Address of Mr. Belknap, of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, we have set apart this day, according to a custom that has prevailed from time immemorial in the House when one of our members has been removed by death, that the surviving members may pay just and proper tribute to the dead.

Melbourne H. Ford, at the time of his death, was a resident of the city of Grand Rapids, Mich. Born in Saline, Mich., June 30, 1849; was educated at the Michigan Agricultural College, and at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. He served in the Navy, enlisting there as an apprentice September 10, 1864, and served on the *Sabine* and the *Colorado*, and was discharged May 7, 1867. He was then apprenticed a cadet at the Naval Academy June 21, 1867, and resigned on the 8th day of January, 1868.

Returning to the State of Michigan, he became official stenographer to several of the courts, meantime studying law. He was in the year 1878 admitted to the bar, but did not practice law until a short time before his death, but continued the profession of stenography. In the year 1885 he was elected a member of the State Legislature for the term of two years, and was then elected a member of the Fiftieth Congress, and in that Congress served with fidelity upon the Committees on Territories and on Military Affairs, and as chairman of the

Select Committee on Contract Labor. This committee was created to inquire into the violations of the laws prohibiting the importation of contract laborers, and it was in this work that he attained prominence.

The character of the immigration from all the countries of Europe to this country had become one of universal comment. The cities of the country, both East and West, were being rapidly filled with paupers and criminal classes of the countries of the Old World, becoming an unbearable burden upon the people of our land. They filled the charitable institutions of the different communities. The prisons were full of them, and the costly machinery of the courts rapidly became a burden too heavy for the taxpayers to bear. And not only were the cities infested with this undesirable class of beings, but the country districts were becoming unsafe on account of the tramps who roamed about robbing and often murdering the defenseless people.

It was a well-known fact that European governments by an organized system were sending their criminals to this country, and not only the criminals, but the idiotic and insane as well. The ship that came freighted with a thousand honest people would also contain a hundred others who at their very first step upon our shores became a burden and a menace to our institutions. Of this class many came here with no other design and having no other object in view.

It was this threatening cloud, this plague, that seemed to be surely undermining the people of our own country that brought Mr. FORD'S energy to the relief of the Commonwealth. Quick to perceive the danger, he put the wheels in motion that are still turning. Starting slowly at first, like the wheels of a large engine, they have gained in speed day by day until it seems the problem whether our own people are to be enabled to enjoy this grand country is nearly solved.

Laws and rules have grown out of this agitation, this investigation, so that at the present time many of the undesirable classes are prevented from disgracing our soil by their presence.

'Tis sad that Mr. FORD could not have lived to see the results of his work, to see the promise of the day when the ship coming to our shores with a thousand souls shall contain but law-abiding and self-sustaining people. He expressed a true statement, and one in the interest of all patriotic people, when he said that immigration should be controlled by the General Government, and not by any one State. That the subject of immigration was one that affected all our people and was a fit subject for Federal control.

He was defeated for reëlection in the Fifty-first Congress, and two years later was elected to the Fifty-second Congress, but was suddenly stricken and died at his residence in the city that delighted to honor him, on the 20th day of April, 1891. Never did people feel more keenly the loss of one of their own than did the people of the Fifth Congressional district of Michigan.

He was to them a brother. They had found in him a friend whose heart overflowed with generosity. His friends love to think of him and his genial ways. Those nearest to him will never lose the sad pleasures which come from the recollection of scenes brightened by the sunny side of nature he always presented. Personal characteristics drew friends to Mr. FORD; his individuality kept that friendship.

It was with deep sorrow and regret that the people of our State heard of the death of my friend and predecessor, and today the hearts of the people of the State are full of sorrow and sympathy for the bereaved widow and children, whose husband and father was cut down in the vigor of his manhood and in the midst of his activity and usefulness. His death is

deeply deplored by his constituents and by the State which he represented in part with undoubted ability as a member of this House. But he is gone, Mr. Speaker, and how soon we will follow none of us know.

To all appearances one day before his death Mr. FORD might count upon a most enviable future public life. He had an admiring, unquestioning constituency; he had laid broad and deep the foundation for wide influence in the State. To the ordinary view few men had better promise of a far-reaching political career, but no man, Mr. Speaker, with whatever eagle eye he may have at the ocean of the future, can tell when his voyage may be interrupted. He of whom we speak to-day was suddenly taken from his high vantage ground, and in what we call his untimely eclipse went out whatever there might have been for him otherwise of glory and honor to come.

If he had a fault it was due to his generous nature, his warm heart. He studied to please men, not to displease them. He often wronged himself in an effort to satisfy those who called for his assistance. When a man has been standing for many years in the fierce storms and lights of political controversy it is generally forgotten that he has any individuality, private life, or character, except such as has been imposed upon him by political allies or opponents. But in the rough-and-tumble battle of politics and servitude to the people his most pleasing trait was his social, genial manner. Always cheerful and humorous, he tried to strew the pathway of his friends with flowers.

The best portions of a man's life are the little unnumbered acts of kindness and charity that one finds opportunity to bestow every day in the course of active life. Some men tire out, some men wear out, as the days fly and the years pass by; some men go backward, or drop behind in the race of life; some grow dull and prosy as they grow in years, while others grow young in action and in heart as the battles of life by day

and month are met. But an intelligent people will never willingly let die the deeds, the kind acts, and the good words of an honest man. When a man's days are numbered there comes after his death a judgment.

Nature and society pass in a kind, yet in a just, survey upon each completed life. However, in this world we live in deeds, not years; we live in thoughts, not breaths; in feelings, not figures. He lives most who thinks most. He who acts the best feels the noblest. Our deceased friend counted life by the heart throbs, and not by the measured standard of months and years. To all appearance he had just reached the summit of his strength. He seemed equipped to undertake laborious tasks; never so well fitted to serve his constituents and his country. He did not perceive the enemy that was watching his every step and his every hour of life. To him the end seemed far distant. He thought to see the sun go down in the evening, the flowers to wither in the fall, the river to be frozen in the winter; not that the sun should go down at noon, and the flowers wither in the summer, and the stream of life frozen before the chill of old age.

Mr. Speaker, life is a golden ship, with sails of angels' wings. It comes to the shore freighted with an assorted load for man to select from. Youth going for the gifts may select roses with thorns, or the flowers of the fields, fragrant and sweet. He may select jewels, rare and precious, or he may load himself down with the baser metals, that will burden him through all his days on earth. Who is to guide the untrained hand that reaches for a share of the precious load? Someone has said that life is a casket of jewels, and that God holds the key. If this be true, and I believe it is, then God often unlocks the casket and gives to mankind many rare jewels. Not gifts to be kept and worn for all time, but gifts for a day, to adorn and light the paths of the universe.

The one day of life given to the insect of the air is a life of activity. The life of a season, or a brief year of a plant or flower of the field or forest, is a life of fragrance and usefulness to all mankind. The life of the birds of the air, brief in years, is a life of song, of love for its young, and of thankfulness to its Creator for the breath of life it is permitted to have.

The life of man is also but a span, but a brief atom of time; but he who makes the most of that brief space lives the most, and best returns to his Creator remuneration for the jewels out of the great and beautiful ship of life.

O Death! Hadst thou but spared the life that we this day lament.

> The sunset splendors, faded now and dead;
> So have we seen the hopes of youth decay;
> Oh, ruddy rose, that erst did blush so red!
> Thou, too, didst have too brief a summer's day.

The thought, Mr. Speaker, leads me back to the day when he was a youth, and set out to hew his way to a place among men; and thus do I see him:

> The sun had set.
> Then beamed the evening star beyond the crags.
> The evening wind sighed like a wearied child,
> And night fell like a mist upon the earth.
> He sank to sleep; before him in his dreams
> Three radiant forms in moonlit beauty stood.
>
> Love, Fortune, Fame, were they; the three most fair
> His eyes had ever seen, or thought to see,
> As, on the Mount of Ida years ago,
> Three goddesses in goddess beauty stood,
> Olympian in loveliness and grace,
> And bade the shepherd make his choice
> The while they bribed him enviously with gifts.
> So stood those radiant forms upon the mount,
> And while the moonbeams trembled on the steep,
> As oft in ancient times on Latmos' heights
> They trembled on Endymion's snowy brow,
> Addressed him as he lay in sleep.

First Fortune spoke: "O, youth, choose me," she cried;
"I know where gold is hid, whose sunny shine
Is loved by all men more than they can tell.
I know where gems await my favorite;
Pure, lucent diamonds, glittering like stars.
Imperial rubies, red as blood,
And all the lesser jewels, which to name
Were tedious task."
Then Love, blushing like the dawn,
Addressed him words caressingly:
"Choose me," she said, "and happiness that lasts
Long as the constant stars shall be thy lot.
Sweet courtesy that makes one's life worth while,
That adds a grace to kings, and makes the serf
A mate for kings, shall brighten all thy days."

Then Fame took up the word, and with a smile:
"Choose Fortune, child?" she said; "she hath wings,
And flies away as lightly as she comes;
And if she stay, what profit doth she bring?
She gives no honor: 'tis gold that wins when
Fortune takes her flight. Now tell me, pray,
Where be those cringing things of parasites
That fatten on a lordling's store?
Flown like a vulture when their feast is done.
And as for Love, I grant you she is fair;
So are the sunset days that fade to gray;
So is the wild rose that must wither soon;
So is the pebble shining in the stream;
Love is a dream, my child, a fitful dream."

"O Fame!" he cried, "I choose thee; thou art best."
And then he awoke. Pale star-shine on the crags,
And that was all. Such was the dream.
He climbed adown the mountain side,
Unto the shores of the roaring sea,
Great billows with majestic ourush swept
Like a conquering army to the hostile shore.
Within a sheltered cove a pinnace lay,
Equipped for sea, and lifting up her chain
He stepped aboard and set sail.
All day he sailed and fainter grew the land;
Night came, and one by one along the coast
The light-house beacons flashed their messages,
Then one by one faded from his sight.

So vale and forest, mountain side and sea,
Were traversed in a hopeless search for fame,
Whose form appeared not, save in fleeting dreams.
When, after calms and storms upon the main
His voyage had reached the ocean's utmost bound,
Upon the shore he met an aged man,
To him told the story of his search.
"O, youth," the aged man low-voiced replied,
"There is one more noble than the 'mystic three.'
Though fair is Fortune with her yellow gold;
Though sweet is Love if she be true;
Though grand is Fame, and eloquent her voice;
Fame, Fortune, Love, less noble all than one
Whose name is Duty. Serve her day by day,
And happy if with chastened life and pure,
Thou quit thyself as knight of Duty ought;
Fame, Fortune, Love, and all that men hold dear,
Will follow surely as the azure sky.
For he who gives his life at Duty's call,
Lives while he dies, and conquers in defeat;
And he who loves the right more than all else,
Shall win at last the eternal crown of life."

Then can we say:

Cover the embers
And put out the light;
Toil comes with the morning
And rest with the night.

The book is complete
And closed like the day;
And the hand that has written it
Lays it away.

On motion of Mr. BELKNAP, the resolutions were adopted; and the House then, in pursuance thereof (at 4 o'clock p. m.), adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

DECEMBER 22, 1891.

Mr. MCMILLAN. I ask that the resolutions of the House of Representatives relative to the death of my late colleague in that House, Hon. MELBOURNE H. FORD, be laid before the Senate.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the resolutions of the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Secretary read as follows:

Whereas the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. MELBOURNE H. FORD, late a Representative from the State of Michigan: Therefore,

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to his memory the House do now adjourn.

Resolved, That the Clerk be directed to communicate this action to the Senate.

Mr. MCMILLAN. Mr. President, I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk and ask for their adoption. I give notice that I shall on some suitable occasion in the future ask the Senate to pause in its business to pay fitting tribute to the life and public services of my late colleague.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The resolutions submitted by the Senator from Michigan will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. MELBOURNE H. FORD, late a Representative from the State of Michigan.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions.

The resolutions were agreed to unanimously.

Mr. MCMILLAN. As a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and (at 1 o'clock and 17 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Wednesday, December 23, 1891, at 12 o'clock meridian.

FEBRUARY 4, 1893.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I ask that the message from the House of Representatives announcing the death of Hon. MELBOURNE H. FORD may be laid before the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The message will be read.

The Secretary read as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *April 9, 1892.*

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of the Hon. MELBOURNE H. FORD, late a Representative from the State of Michigan.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his eminent abilities as a public servant, the House, at the conclusion of these memorial proceedings, shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolutions will be read.

The Secretary read as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate receives with sincere regret the announcement of the death of the Hon. MELBOURNE H. FORD, late a member of the House of Representatives from the State of Michigan, and tenders to the family of the deceased the assurance of their sympathy with them under the bereavement they have been called upon to sustain.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to transmit to the family of Mr. FORD a certified copy of the foregoing resolution.

Address of Mr. Stockbridge, of Michigan.

Mr. President, in the full flush of early prime, at the beginning of what would have been a great career, and just after a remarkable demonstration of the confidence reposed in him by the people of his State and district, Hon. Melbourne Haddock Ford, Representative in Congress from the Fifth district of Michigan, was called from this earth.

It has fallen to the lot of but few of the many distinguished men whom Michigan has sent to represent her in the Congress of the United States to acquire such great and genuine popularity with the masses of her people as that which was awarded to the late Representative Ford. His career was short, but successful almost beyond precedent in the State's political history. His death was sudden, but painless. His funeral was an ovation to his memory.

It was my pleasure to be long and well acquainted with the deceased Representative. Although we were not of the same political faith, and his signal and repeated successes were disadvantageous to the political organization of my association, I shared in the general pride with which the people of Michigan observed his steady advance to national distinction.

Mr. Ford was a native of the State he afterward honored in public life and in whose service he died. He was born at Saline, Washtenaw County, Mich., June 30, 1849. It is unnecessary to give the details of his youth or his younger manhood. In his boyhood he had the hard labor and practical experience incident to farm life. Afterward his parents removed to Lansing, the capital of our State, and he was educated at the Agricultural College, located there.

He enlisted in the naval service of the country during the

war, and served with gallantry for something over a year. After his return to his home in Lansing he was appointed, through the favor of the lamented Hon. John W. Longyear, of Michigan, long a distinguished Representative in Congress, to a position as cadet in the Naval Academy at Annapolis. An affection of the eyes prevented a completion of his course at this institution, and undoubtedly changed his subsequent career.

Returning to Michigan he was some time engaged as a druggist in the city of Charlotte, but soon afterward he turned his attention to the profession of phonography. He grew to be an expert and one of the most successful shorthand writers in this country. He was long engaged as stenographer in the higher courts of western Michigan. At the same time he studied law, was admitted to the bar, and acquired some prominence as an active practitioner. He was the author of "Ford's Legal Analysis," a small but standard legal work. After he had entered political life he retired from the stenographic practice and was an active attorney at law. At the time of his death he was a member of the well known Grand Rapids law firm of McGarry & Ford.

Mr. FORD was always popular in the enterprising city which he afterward represented in Congress. He was in many respects typical of that remarkable, bustling, energetic, and prosperous city. His entry into political life was almost accidental, and his remarkable success in the public service was achieved without original intention or preparation for it. He was always an active member of the Democratic party, and was in the fall of 1884 chairman of a city convention to nominate candidates for the Legislature.

To his surprise, he was nominated by acclamation as the first choice of the convention, and was handsomely elected. It did not take Mr. FORD long to establish his position as a leader in

the Legislature. His party was in the minority, but it is no discredit to his associates of the majority to say that he was a genuine leader from the first day of the session. He entered upon his duties with honesty and energy and carried them out with enthusiasm and ability. He was identified most prominently in this session of the Legislature with an effort for the restoration of capital punishment in Michigan.

Capital punishment had been unpopular for a long time, and efforts for its restoration had theretofore been overwhelmingly defeated, but Mr. FORD'S effort was responsible for a great alteration in public sentiment, and while his bill did not become a law, he pressed it with such vigor that from that time there has been a very material and recognized change in public opinion upon the subject. Mr. FORD'S experience and prominence acquired in the Legislature led to his being early discussed as a candidate for Congress in the fall of 1886. Although his district went Republican on the general ticket that year, Mr. FORD was elected to Congress by a very comfortable plurality.

Mr. FORD'S service began with the Fiftieth Congress. Before the close of the first half of his term he had taken a very prominent rank in the House of Representatives. He had been originally appointed on some of the most important committees of that body, and was early in his service placed at the head of a special committee of the House to investigate the question of immigration, to which he had given much attention for several years.

This committee visited important cities in all parts of the country, acquired a mass of useful information, and made a complete and satisfactory report to the House. His work on this committee and his efforts generally in Congress rendered him very popular in his district. He was renominated for the Fifty-first Congress. In the election which followed the Republican party swept the district and Mr. FORD was beaten

by a very large majority, but his continued popularity was demonstrated by the fact that he ran very far ahead of his ticket. His defeat seemed only to emphasize his popularity and to give him renewed prominence in his party.

When the Legislature met, in the ensuing January, to elect a successor to Hon. Thomas W. Palmer, in this body, Mr. MELBOURNE HADDOCK FORD received the complimentary vote of all of the Democratic members of both houses of the Legislature for that position.

In midsummer of 1890 Mr. FORD was made chairman of the Democratic State Convention held in the city of Grand Rapids, which nominated the first successful State ticket of that party in the period of thirty-seven years.

Later in the year he was, for a third time, nominated by acclamation for Congress. Notwithstanding his defeat of two years before, he entered the campaign with great vigor and spirit, and the popular confidence in him was once again demonstrated by his overwhelming return as a Representative-elect in the Fifty-second Congress. His position now seemed to be secure. It was believed by his partisans and friends that he was now to enter upon a continuous and successful career in the House of Representatives. He began faithfully preparing himself for this work of his.

In the spring of 1891 he was chairman of the committee on resolutions of the Democratic State Convention. This was his last public service. On the 14th day of April, 1891, the people of Grand Rapids and of the State of Michigan were universally shocked at the news of his sudden and altogether unexpected death. He passed away at the early age of 41, having achieved unusual success and having come to a position of foremost prominence in the affairs of his Commonwealth.

Mr. FORD was generous, gallant, and chivalric. He was brilliant, brave, and patriotic. In public life he honored the

State which honored him. His loss was keenly felt by the people of his city, by his friends everywhere in Michigan, and by his colleagues in the Congress of the United States, who had hoped to renew the acquaintance and enjoy the society of this able, energetic, honest, and conscientious man.

All that was mortal of our late associate lies in a beautiful grove dedicated to the dead, in the midst of that hive of life and industry, the city of Grand Rapids. But we have absolute faith in the divine assurance that we may hope that such men do not fail to live again. Serene confidence in the future life was a characteristic of our dead friend.

The first remarks that he ever made in Congress were upon an occasion like this, when the House of Representatives paid tribute to one of his dead associates from our State. His expressions of hope and confidence in the continued life of that dead colleague have a sweet savor to us now, for in his words we can ourselves express the faith that he will live again.

Sooner or later—

He said—

> the Angel of Death comes to us all. That there is a hereafter every man, it seems to me, must believe. I can not conceive how anyone with human instincts can think otherwise. If there exists a person who honestly believes that when his eyes are closed in death nothing remains, such a person is to be pitied. When dust is rendered into dust is all ended? No; I have something here in my innermost soul which tells me that this life is not the end; that beyond all this we have a wider, a higher, a nobler destiny. There lies in the human breast a something which says, "That is not all." What an encouraging hope, what a divine thing it is for this world, this belief in future existence!

Address of Mr. Daniel, of Virginia.

Mr. President, the character of the living may be estimated by the measure of respect which they pay to their dead.

Human life is the most splendid and most wonderful manifestation of the Creator's power. Earth and heaven are married in its being. It is the most sacred as it is the most beautiful and interesting of all earthly things. Its close, whether by the slow degrees of fading strength, or by the sudden stroke of disease, or by the violent hand of force, is the most shocking and appalling of all the catastrophes of nature, and the most inscrutable manifestation of our Creator's will.

We can not grow familiar with death. The distance between us and it may be brief in fact, but it must ever seem remote and far apart from us as long as we dwell in the land of the living. Its mystery can not be penetrated. Its dignity can not be belittled. We can not contemplate it save with awe and reverence. We can never know, until at least the veil is lifted, the meaning of its dispensation. Yet we may trust and hope.

Day by day our friends depart. Here as members of small bodies, like the House of Representatives and the Senate, we witness as upon a narrow field the process of swift transitions and dissolving scenes. Men chosen by the people, spirits valiant, gifted with light and power and prowess, come to discharge their delegated missions. They deliver their messages and disappear. Some are retired by changes of popular opinion, some of their own volition, some by the final fate, but in a little while all are gone.

Yet the scene is as busy as ever before. There are no vacant chairs. The great stream of natural life flows with increasing depth and volume, and few even of the greatest who have floated

on its surface leave behind them any proud monument or shining token of their days.

But it does not follow that their work was not important or that it was not ably and faithfully performed.

It does not follow that their names are not worthy to be cherished with gratitude and homage.

The deeds that hold society in cohesion and harmony and guide its forces to increasing prosperity are those of the mass that toil and think in their appropriate spheres. To do to-day's work and let it go for its worth is not less the task of the great than of the small. Whether it shine or no, whether it be heralded or no, all the same it has become a factor for good, and is having its influence in shaping, expanding, and preserving the public weal.

Yesterday we mourned a sage of the Senate from my own State who had suddenly vanished from our side full of years and honors. To-day South Dakota, in the far Northwest, and South Carolina, the land of the Palmetto, have bent side by side over their dead.

And now we mourn the young and brilliant son of Michigan, who was stricken down like a knight on the lists, while his fiery heart was all aglow with the fury of battle and his weaponed arm was lifted in the press of conflict.

MELBOURNE HADDOCK FORD was born in that young and vigorous Commonwealth which sent him here, and which has sent to our National Council so many statesmen full of the intellectual force and social grace, and of the energy and earnestness that have characterized its progressive and enlightened civilization. He was a characteristic representative man of that aspiring and achieving people, and his had been a busy and eventful life.

Whatever his hand had found to do he had done with his might, and his brief career was crowded with deeds that bespoke his fertile genius.

Born in 1849, he had hastened while yet a boy to become a defender of the flag that floated over his people, and which was sent forth to battle. I respect him for it. He entered the naval service just before the close of the civil war with the enthusiasm of the ingenious youth who throughout this land heard the drum beat, and instinctively sought the ranks.

As he laid aside the sword and the echoes of strife died away, he took up the general tasks, the love, the hope of peace, and its constructive duties. A clerk, a druggist, a stenographer, a lawyer, an author, a politician, a State legislator, twice a member of Congress, the choice of his party for United States Senator and receiving its support—these successive rounds of the ladder he mounted—and while his face full of hope still looked upward, and his strong hand was stretched upward, lo! death touched him and he fell. Warm affections and great interests and high hopes concentrated their dreams around him, which now, alas! can only pour their sorrows upon his all too early tomb.

I can not speak of Mr. FORD from the standpoint of intimate association with him. To recite his private virtues is the pleasing part of those who knew him better than myself and it has been well performed. But this I observe in his career that discloses his character on its marked and stronger features. Success had rewarded his efforts—he had been a member of the State Legislature, and then of the House of Representatives in the Fiftieth Congress. In that Congress he took decided positions upon public issues.

Some of his views were unpopular. He was defeated and relegated to private life. The spell of his successive victories was broken. But, nothing daunted, he reëntered the political field in 1890. He firmly and boldly advocated the doctrines which commanded his loyal convictions. The people discovered in him the staunch, true, leader; and now triumphing upon

the field that he had lost, he was reëlected a member of the Fifty-second Congress of the United States. Well, might we apply to him the warrior's boast:

> Call me not shamed who am but overthrown;
> Thrown have I been, not once but many a time.
> Victor from vanquished issues at the last,
> And overthrower from being overthrown.

Before that Congress assembled the victor was dead upon his shield. This I observed in Mr. FORD while he was in the public service here.

He was full of push and energy, and grasped his duties with a comprehending mind and a firm, industrious hand.

He seemed tireless in his efforts to press to success the measures confided to his care. I saw him on his appearance before committees and in his tasks upon the floor of the House. I realized that there was a man in earnest, no trifler with things he had to deal with, a spirit resolute and restless, determined to do or die.

I shall not prolong this poor and imperfect tribute save to add this thought: Mr. FORD belonged to that class of thoughtful, conrageous, industrious men—well informed, justly ambitious, with high ideals and patriotic purposes, who correctly interpret the genius of this day and generation, and who are destined to lead and mold it.

The freshness of youth was in his mind and heart. He bore upon his soul no burdens from the past which so lacerated it as to impair its generous impulses; and he entertained no prejudices which belittled his stature, clouded his reason, or impeded his pathway.

Had he lived his career would have shed larger honor upon the State which gave him to the service of the nation, and grown into greater brightness around his name.

Cut off even as he ripened for the great tasks that kindled

his genius and his ambition, we can but bow to the wisdom and power of our Maker who has so decreed and say, "Thy will be done." Yet we take to heart the lesson that is left to enrich our annals in the life of this noble young American statesman, who followed his faith with fidelity, who did his deed with courage, and who now released from labor, sleeps well.

ADDRESS OF MR. MCMILLAN, OF MICHIGAN.

Mr. President, at the capital of the nation and in the halls of Congress more than anywhere else the fact of man's mortality is impressed upon the mind. Seemingly few and brief are the intervals when from all the public buildings and from the doors of both the House and the Senate the black badge of mourning is absent. To-day the Senate has been called to pay its tribute of respect to the memory of a young man, a man who was apparently just entering on a career of large usefulness to his State and nation. Trained at the Naval Academy for service in the great struggle, the war was ended before he could see active duty.

The return of peace led Mr. FORD to seek success in civil life. His brightness and industry are sufficiently indicated when it is said that he attained a high reputation in the difficult and laborious profession of stenography. His popularity led to his election as a member of the Michigan State Legislature, and his service there was of so satisfactory a character as to lead the people of the Fifth district, which includes the great manufacturing and commercial city of Grand Rapids, to send him to the House of Representatives.

During his first term in that body he attracted the attention of the country to his work in investigating the subject of

immigration. Defeated for reëlection, after an interval of two years he was again elected to Congress, but died before he could take his seat. The esteem in which he was held by his own party throughout the State was shown by the fact that four years ago he was the caucus nominee of the Democratic members of the Legislature for the office of United States Senator.

Such in brief is the record of a man who had crowded into the forty-two years of his life experiences remarkably varied. The death of such a man is a loss to his State, and in Michigan the mourning for him was widespread. In the beautiful city of Grand Rapids, where Mr. FORD made his home, the grief was deep and sincere.

It is fitting, therefore, that the Senate put on record its appreciation of Mr. FORD'S services in behalf of his State and his country; and although my own personal acquaintance with him was slight, I appreciate the opportunity to pay this tribute to the worth of one whose reputation is a source of pride to every citizen of Michigan.

Mr. President, I move the adoption of the resolutions.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

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